GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1630
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007
PROMOTION OF ETHANOL
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether latest research has established that ethanol can be produced not only from sugar cane but also from stalks of sweet sorghum (jowar) abundantly grown in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) Yes, Sir. The ethanol can also be produced from stalk of sweet sorghum.

(b) Sweet sorghum is native to tropics which can be cultivated in temperate and tropical climatic areas. The stem of sorghum has carbohydrates, cellulose, hemicullulose and lignin. The sweet sorghum sugars consist of sucrose, glucose and fructose. These sugars can be fermented into alcohol. Besides, bagasse of sweet sorghum plant contains lingo-cellulosic biomass, which can also be converted to ethanol through the process of enzymatic hydrolysis.